



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

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SOCIAL COLUMN

Slide Night - 24 June 1992

Our president has suggested that a series of slide nights, about one a month, be held. I think that this is a good idea and have agreed to present a selection of my slides in the Clubrooms at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday 24th June.

The slides may or may not cover Tasmania, skiing, lilo trips, rafting, etc. etc.
Let me know if you have any preferences.

Bill Metzenth

Marysville Guest House Weekend

19 - 21 June

Just a quick note to advise everyone that the Marysville Weekend will still be going ahead even though, at the time of writing this article, the number of people booked in is not what I as hoping for.

However, you are assured of having a great weekend - see you there!!

Michael Humphrey

Of Red Noses and Red Faces

Our apologies to several paid-up members who received their last "NEWS" sporting a red-nosed donkey.

Please forgive the red-faced donkeys who made the error and be assured all is in order now.

Jean Giese, President.

Correspondence should be directed to: The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
PO Box 1751Q
MELBOURNE 3001

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, Mackenzie St Melbourne (rear of the Horticultural Society building) every Wednesday night 7.00-9.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Please note that articles for "The News" may be faxed to the News Convenor on Closing date for the July edition is Wednesday 1 July 1992.

Letters to the Editor

Rex and Sue Filsons' letter in last month's "NEWS" has generated several replies and articles, as they had hoped. (Editor's apology for mis-spelling "Filson" last month)

I read Sue and Rex Filsons' letter in May "NEWS" and thought perhaps another equation is called for. The greater the distance from Melbourne = greater nostalgia = poorer memory.

Have Sue and Rex forgotten the old editions where the title "THE NEWS" filled half to three quarters of the front page? Also the full page advertisements for Barn Dances, Club Dinners, etc, not forgetting the full page Red Nose Donkey subs reminder? Editors have always pleaded for walk reviews, usually with little response (Mike Griffin excepted). Sue & Rex must have forgotten that all leaders produce walk reports which are filed away in the clubrooms (perhaps Newcastle Bushwalkers would benefit from this system!).

As far as history goes, I recently wrote the 60s history and whilst old copies of "NEWS" were useful it took a lot of digging around to get the real stories. For instance, what could anyone make of this 60s walk review:

"What a weekend! Rain, bogged van, tents like a tin of sardines, 360° to cross the river, lost all the time (though water for lunch?), 3/4 hour for lunch, blisters, uncomfortable packs, "Pom", VW driver, L.I.W., "Bloke", rock hopping, lambing ewes, farmer with rifle, wet feet, - Filsons Folly once again?"

I think "NEWS" production is well set out, easy to read and has lots of relevant information. Keep up the good work!

Dougo Pocock

and another

As to why more "newsy" articles are not received, I believe you answered your own question. It is precisely because the club is so large. Within any club there is always a core of members who take responsibility for doing most of the work. The size of the "core" seems to be the same whether the membership is 50 or 300. The problem is, with a membership of 350+, it is impossible for these few to keep track of what other members are doing.

It is very difficult to relate to 350+ people on a personal level. I believe that is we have had difficulties trying to fill the position of social secretary and trying to organise social functions.

As far as walk reports and track notes are concerned, every walk leader writes a report giving route details, campsites, places of interest, property owners, etc. These reports are filed by the Walks Secretary in the Club rooms where they are available to leaders of future walks, or any other members who are interested in reading them. To print them in the "NEWS" would be a duplication and of little interest to most members who only want to know general information about forthcoming walks so that they can decide whether or not to book on to them.

It is a pity that more members do not become more actively involved in the club, but for many people all they want is to pay their money for services provided without the need for further involvement.

I hope this has given you some insight into why the "NEWS" isn't the way it used to be, and I don't foresee that it can ever be that way again unless the membership drops to such a low level that everyone knows and relates to everyone else, and therefore takes a personal interest in the Club.

Becky Marshall

and another

Rex and Sue Filsons' letter in the May "NEWS" struck an empathetic cord with me - their description of the simplicity of producing the 50 year history excluded.

Being a 70s member makes me a relative newcomer in comparison with the Filsons, even so, the Club has changed since I joined. The membership has gone from around 150-200 to its present 350-400. Weekend walks regularly attracted 20-30, similar to the number on the day walks. The 80s has seen a marked shift toward day walking as the major club activity.

The number of walking clubs in the Melbourne metropolitan area has increased enormously since the 70s. Still the Melbourne Bushies:

- are among the larger clubs by membership;
- meet weekly in clubrooms - many clubs meet monthly;
- like most clubs, try and return something to the community and environment we depend upon;
- have a large and diverse activities programme;
- provide transport for Sunday walks;
- own, maintain and operate our own van;
- are trying to publish a 50 year history.

None of these come without a cost. The cost is an enormous amount of part time effort by the Club members. A lot of this effort is in areas that other clubs do not expend energy, i.e. maintaining and operating both the van and Wilky. Both of these are adding to the steadily increasing effort required to run the Club. Rex and Sue lament the demise of "Walk". I do too. There were many reasons for the demise. Significantly, at an AGM some years ago, a show of hands voted to continue to publish "Walk". But a show of hands does not publish "Walk" and it never appeared again. We all share responsibility for this. "Along the Track" items will appear when members feel moved to contribute them.

I'm concerned that as (and if) the Club membership grows the cumulative demands of the users will continue to outstrip the capacity of the contributors to provide. Those who attended the last AGM will remember that despite a show of hands requiring more effort from the Club, the only significant silence occurred when it was queried as to who would provide the effort. A similar thing happened at the EGM in April. The current demands on the Club outstrip our capacity to provide.

I'm very lucky as Wilky Manager. Wilky is a labour of love to many. Wilky needs this - so does the rest of the Club.

Graeme Thornton

THE CLUB VAN (1)

Yes, they are right! Oh for the good old days; when we were just a walking club with no mobile assets, the committee and club members weren't arguing over peripheral issues, and when the walks secretary only had to ring up on Thursday and specify what size van was required. There were no worries about breakdowns, garaging, drivers, registration, maintenance, RTA inspections and so on.

If the good old days did exist, it was when the same van picked up the weekend and the day walkers on Sunday afternoon and we had singing competitions between the 2 groups on the way home - have you noticed that Dennis now wears a hearing aid?

I didn't vote at the April general meeting because I felt that the regular Sunday walkers should make the decision, but seeing how this issue is splitting the club, I will certainly be voting on 10 June.

Rod Mattingley

THE CLUB VAN (2)

I wish to appeal to the membership to reconsider the decision to sell the Club's van. The issues at the forefront of the debate for using hired buses seem to be the comfort, greater speed and safety of the buses compared with the van.

I for one do not consider bushwalking to be a physically comfortable experience, but one of effort and sociability. The van contains an extremely social environment, and one of togetherness, due to its seating arrangement. It is an arena for intellectual exchange, laughter, playing games, telling jokes or whatever takes one fancy. The bus is not. Consider the noise from people chatting in the van compared with the sterile virtual silence in the bus.

I acknowledge that the van is slower, but I feel that this is offset by the aforementioned points and the ones that I will raise below.

I question that the van is less safe. Firstly, one should remember that it is a furniture van and has two large outwardly swinging doors at the rear with a ramp that can be lowered, so should an accident occur, the occupants can get out far quicker than from a bus. Secondly, it is slow and as most accidents are more serious at high speed, my point here is an obvious one.

The van has been resprayed recently and even more recently had maintenance done to its suspension

and other parts of it. Some members say that this cost around eight thousand dollars. Some say we were ripped off. Could the committee please clarify these two points?

At the AGM we were informed that the market value of the van is five thousand dollars and that it is cheaper by one hundred and fifty dollars a trip to use it than a bus. It is criminal to spend a possible eight thousand dollars on the van and sell it for five thousand dollars. Besides, due to the one hundred and fifty dollar saving per week, it could pay for its repairs in just over a year. Could the members, who are hell bent on disposing of it, not wait for just one year?

To say goodbye to the van is to say goodbye to bike trips as the Club knew them. Newcomers should be made aware that the rear seats can be removed and bikes wheeled in through the back doors. Passengers can then enter through the front door and sit in the front most seats.

Our freedom to go where we like is of paramount importance to the Club. It concerns me that if a hired bus was damaged, along an extremely narrow track for instance, that a bus company may stipulate that we may no longer go along such tracks. If we damage our van, the implications are far less serious. There are technical advantages to the van. It's a shorter vehicle and so it can be turned around in a smaller space. This can make the difference between doing a walk a certain way and not doing it that way. It has a manual transmission and, should the need arise, can be roll started. It is not possible to do this in the buses because they have automatic transmissions.

Although the van is over ten years old, one should remember that it has spent nearly all its life

operating only at the weekends, and if it is kept it will continue to do so. This coupled with the fact that the engine is only half way through its predicted lifespan means that the Club still has the option of years of service from it. Why throw it away for around a miserable five thousand dollars?

As can be seen, there is more to this issue than comfort and speed. I urge everyone to think it over very carefully as once it's gone, it's gone.

Adrian Cole

RECYCLED PAPER

I agree with Emily (May "NEWS") that the newsletter should be printed on recycled paper. It's the principle that's important - bushwalkers care about the bush and conserving trees, and cost shouldn't be the issue. I would certainly be prepared to pay \$2 more for my annual subscription to cover the extra cost.

Janet Clough

Regarding the letter written by Emily Wilson last month, I also agree that we should use recycled paper and was shocked to read that we didn't already do this. I personally think \$2 extra a year is nothing to spend towards helping save the wilderness that we all enjoy.

Stephen Rowlands

Readers should note that the Committee have now voted to print "NEWS" on recycled paper. However, unfortunately our present printer was unable to supply any this month.

UPDATE - 50 YEAR PUBLICATION

Barbara Weiss continues the time-consuming work of editing the excellent contributions. Our designer is producing a sample chapter and we believe that we are nearing the solution in the size/cost/readability equation. We are talking to several printers and we shall shortly receive dummy books in order to finalise decisions on materials.

Photographs

There will be a special meeting soon to examine the candidate photographs for the cover. After a struggle we have collected more than 200 candidate photographs to illustrate the book, but we do need a large number in order to select the most

appropriate. Those of you who keep meaning to look out your photographs but haven't yet got round to it - this is your last chance!

Questionnaire

In order to have a more precise idea of the number of books to print, a randomly-selected sample of members will shortly receive a questionnaire. If you are selected please reply promptly. We do not wish to have masses of books left unsold, and there will be no possibility of a reprint, so we need to get it right.

Derrick Brown

Club Treasurer

It was with real regret that we have received the resignation of our Treasurer, Keith Lloyd. Keith took over the job 15 months ago when Rick Chater was transferred to Sydney.

The Treasurer contributes such a lot to the Club, needing to be present in the clubrooms every Wednesday night and spending many hours a week attending to our business. Keith has been a most efficient, conscientious and helpful Treasurer and his leaving us will be a great loss to the Committee and the Club as a whole. Our thanks for all you have done, Keith.

Vice President Alan Clarke is acting Treasurer for the time being.

Condolences

Our condolences to GT who lost his brother last Wednesday 27 May.

Penny

We welcomed back Penny Stapley on our walk on Sunday 31 May. Penny, ex-membership secretary, has recently moved to Queensland, and returned to Melbourne for a short visit.

Jean Giese, President

****** CONSERVATION MATTERS ******

The next meeting of the **Conservation Subcommittee** will be held at 7.30 p.m. on **Wednesday 1 July** in the Clubrooms.

Any Club members are welcome.

Liz Telford

WALK REPORTS

The Club has a valuable collection of walk reports dating back over several decades. These are kept in a filing cabinet in the Clubrooms.

This information is extremely useful for leaders of future walks. The reports may be borrowed by leaders **provided** they fill in the loan book and return them. Unfortunately some of our reports have gone missing - please check if you are guilty of this!

ES MAP (Emergency Services Map)

The Club has purchased a copy of this directory for our library (in the wooden cupboard at the far end of the Clubroom).

It has a very useful collection of maps beyond the Melways range, covering many of our day walking areas, and will assist leaders planning their walks. You can use the library copy or buy our own if you like - see notice board for a discount offer.

The maps show roads, walking tracks, rivers, contours, etc. The scale is 1:50,000.

Max Casley, Walks Secretary

WILKY

Wilky leaders can get keys from me or Michael Mann. Please return them promptly as they have to be passed on from group to group. There is a \$5 per key per week extra charge during winter for keys not returned the week after use.

I will not be in the clubroom every Wednesday night this winter so allow an extra week to check on key availability.

Graeme Thornton, Wilky Lodge Manager.

DAY WALKS - JULY 1992**SAT 27 JUNE 92 DANDENONGS EXPLORER WALK EASY**

Please note there will **not** be a Dandenongs Explorer Walk on this date.

SUN 5 JULY 92 BARWON HEADS - QUEENSCLIFF EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : VERONICA SHEEN & JAN GROSS
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAPS 233,234,235,236
 APPROX DISTANCE : 11 & 16 KM

This will be a brisk winter walk along a wide open ocean beach. It starts at Barwon Heads/Ocean Grove and finishes at Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff, near the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, with some variations for the easy and medium walks respectively. Warm, wind and water-proof clothing are essential - and a hot drink is advisable as well.

SAT 11 JULY 92 LAKE MOUNTAIN BEGINNERS SKIING EASY

LEADER : MICHAEL MANN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE

For details of this skiing trip, please contact leader in the Clubrooms or phone (H)

SUN 12 JULY 92 HEADWATERS OF DIXONS, PAULS & CHUM CREEKS E/MED & MED

LEADERS : PHIL LARKIN & ALAN MILLER
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE :
 APPROX DISTANCE : 15 & 20 KM

This is a hilly, forested area between Kinglake and Toolangi, just off the Melba Highway. The Club does not appear to have walked in this region in recent years. The leaders have arranged a preview, but have not done it at the time of writing this brief note. There will not be an easy walk, only an easy/medium and medium.

WED.15 JULY 92 RIDDELLS CREEK - MT ROBERTSON EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : JEAN GIESE
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 MEETING PLACE : 8.30 A.M. 9 ALBERT CRESCENT SURREY HILLS
 9.45 A.M. CNR KINGLAKE WHITTLESEA RD & EXTONS DR. KINGLAKE CENTRAL
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : GLENBURN 1:50,000 OR PHEASANT CREEK 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 16 KM

There are two Mt Robertsons that I know of. One is in the lower Macedon Ranges north west of Riddells Creek where the Walk Programme says we are going, but we are not! The other is half way between Kinglake Central and Flowerdale where we are going.

The walk will be mostly on tracks through the open fairly dry Mt Robertson State Forest with some early wattles and grevillias adding colour. About 3 km will be through the open bush then beside some cleared land where we will have to cross Boggy Creek. Good views will be our reward after negotiating that hazard.

SAT 18 JULY 92 SEARCH & RESCUE: SKI SKILLS DEVELOPMENT MED/HARD

LEADER : STEPHEN DOWN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 8.00 P.M.

This is for Search & Rescue members only. The aim of the day is to practise ski skills necessary for searching in snow in rugged country off track.. For those people who are interested in becoming a Search & Rescue member should get in contact with myself or Club committee member John Kittson.

SUN 19 JULY 92 BUNYIP STATE PARK - MORTIMER RESERVE EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : JOHN KITTSON & ALAN CLARKE
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : GILWELL & BEENAK 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 & 16 KM

This is a newly-named State Park and our track for the day is on a good grade climbing through the forested foothills with an abundance of flora, gums, wattle, banksia, ferns and also heath which should be out in flower.

Both walks will start from the Dyers Creek Picnic Ground and finish at the Mortimer Reserve. Bring fresh water and don't forget your raincoat, just in case.

SAT 25 JULY 92 LAKE MOUNTAIN SKI SKILLS IMPROVEMENT EASY

LEADERS : MICHAEL MANN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE

For details of this skiing trip, please contact leader in the Clubrooms or phone (H)

SAT 25 JULY 92 DANDENONGS EXPLORER: SHERBROOKE - SASSAFRAS EASY

LEADER : MICHAEL HUMPHREY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE

For details of this walk, please see next month's "NEWS".

SUN 26 JULY 92 MURRINDINDI - WILHEMINA FALLS EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : JOHN KITTSON & ANNE BULLARD
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : KLONDYKE 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 11 & 18 KM

The easy and medium walks are all on bush tracks. Both walks start at the Murrindindi Cascades. The easy group follow the Murrindindi River downstream to the Wilhemina Falls.

The medium walkers climb a fairly steep range of about 400 m. Don't be put off by this as it's not that daunting and you will have lunch at the top of the ridge. Then it's a pleasant walk along the bushland tracks under a canopy of tall gums - lovely if it's a warm sunny day.

We all join forces at the base of the Wilhemina Falls for an easy stroll back to the bus.

WEEKEND WALKS - JULY 1992**3-5 JULY 92 MT COLE BASE CAMP****EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADER : MARIJKE BEDDOWS
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30-8.00 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : BEAUFORT NORTH & BUANGOR NORTH
 APPROX DISTANCE : 27 KM

How to get there: Proceed to Beaufort and beyond along the Western Hwy to Ferntree Gully Rd (approx 12 km after Beaufort's centre). Head north along Ferntree Gully Rd for approx. another 12 km to the Ferntree Gully camping area which should be well signposted. Meet here Friday night or starting time at 9.00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Day 1. Follow Freemans Link Tk to the Great Divide Walking Tk intersection. Take this to the Sugarloaf Tk. Turn east along this passing the Snow Gum & Sugarloaf Lookouts to the Sugarloaf Picnic Area. Take the Upper Level Tk, leaving it at a link track with the Lower Level Tk. Walk south along this to The Cave for lunch. Continue along the Cave Hill Tk to the Middle Creek Camping Ground. Walk along Middle Creek to the Ferntree campsite.

Day 2. Follow Freemans Link Tk to Mugwamp Picnic Area. Walk west to Mt Buangor providing excellent views to the Grampians. Continue to and take the Wallaby Caves Rd heading south. At the Saddle Rd intersection turn east and back to the Ferntree campsite. Lunch will be at the Wallaby Caves.

24-26 JULY 92 DARGO HIGH PLAINS SKIING**MEDIUM**

LEADER : MERILYN WHIMPEY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : LATE SUNDAY NIGHT
 MAP REFERENCE : DARGO 1:100,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : UNKNOWN

I've never skied the Dargo High Plains before, so I don't really know what to expect. The plan will be to drive to Dargo and on till we get into snow. Then we'll ski to a nice camp spot, set up camp, and go exploring with day packs. Skiing and snow camping experience are necessary.

31 JULY - 2 AUG 92 COBBLER PLATEAU SKIING**MED/HARD**

LEADER : STEPHEN DOWN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 10.00 P.M. SUNDAY
 MAP REFERENCE : HOWITT-SELWYN VICMAP 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 34 KM

The cars (4WD) will be left at Lake Cobbler. We will then walk/ski up to Mt. Cobbler. After hopefully looking at some very specky views, we will ski round the edge of the plateau and meet up with the Speculation Rd which we will follow to Mt Speculation. We will camp below Speculation. Sunday we will re-trace our tracks but follow the road back to Lake Cobbler.

SCENIC PARKLAND FITNESS WALKS

- Fairfield Park
- Studley Park
- Yarra River
- Merri Creek
- Edinburgh Gardens

Fully qualified Fitness Leaders
Fitness Testing
See the Results!

- Mon/Tues/Thurs 6.30 - 7.30 pm
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Fees: \$35 (quarterly)
FIRST VISIT FREE

We meet: Clifton Hill Tennis Courts
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Melways Ref: 2C J1

R.S.V.P.: 489 6189

ACCOMMODATION - SHARE HOUSE

Wanted "GOOD EGG" to share house in quiet street in Fairfield opposite park with owner + cat. Loads Olde World Charm with Country Cottage atmosphere. Medium size room. Open fires. Lovely garden. Close train, shops, city. Suit responsible happy individual who enjoys life. Non smoker. Sorry no pets. \$350 p.c.m. includes bills. Bond required. Long or short term.

Ring Tracy (W) (H)

FOR SALE

Macpac Microlight one person tent 1.7kg.
Inner and outer can be pitched separately.
Excellent condition. \$190.

Asolo Glissade 310 XC ski boots, size 43 (8^{1/2}).
Used one season only. \$50.

Ring Tracy (W) (H)

SOUTH AMERICA

Southern Chile and Argentina: 5 weeks Dec 1992-Jan 1993

- Travel with a Spanish speaking guide.
- Climb an active volcano.
- Cruise through the Chilean Fiords.
- Do a 5-10 day walk through the magnificent Torres del Paine National Park.
- Visit the Perito Moreno glacier where huge ice towers crash into the lake every few minutes.
- Do a walk around Mt Fitzroy and Cero Torre, mountain scenery second to none.



Sound interesting? Write for details.



WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

12 Carrington Street

Millner NT 0810

Phone (089) 85 2134 Fax: (089) 85 2355

ALONG THE TRACK**GLEN NAYOOK - NEERIM 24 MAY 1992**

I agree with Rex and Sue Filson's request for a newsier "NEWS" and, just to put my money where my mouth is, here goes....

During recent previews for the "Glen Nayook - Neerim" walk on 24 May, Adrian and I were constantly thwarted in our attempts to find two suitable routes for the forthcoming walk. Our reference was the Neerim 1:25,000 map.

Having abandoned several ideas for the walks on two previous trips, on the third day out we decided on a loop through the Neerim State Forest encompassing the BT Divide and Silvertop Spur Tracks with the easier group incorporating Bellbird Creek Track. It was fairly late in the day by the time we found what had been Bellbird Creek Track but, after going a couple of hundred yards, the track had become unrecognisable and we retreated to Silvertop Spur Track.

A joint decision was made to go back and attempt to clear a track through Bellbird Creek Track. Nigel kindly offered his navigation and track clearing expertise. Unable to find Bellbird Creek Track from the BT Divide Track, Nigel, Adrian and I, armed with secateurs, hedge clippers, a pruning saw and gardening gloves, descended upon the Silvertop Spur end of Bellbird Creek Track.

The track proved a gem. Tree ferns towered overhead and the forest had recovered from logging operations which were perhaps 30-40 years old. We hacked our way through dense wire grass, a shrub goodenia, correa and all manner of other undergrowth, down the ridge shown on the map on the south west side of Bellbird Creek, but time was against us, our energies lagging and our track clearing becoming less and less thorough until it became a cursory saw scratch on trees at eye level to mark the trail.

Following the ridge downhill, we came across a disused, well-benched track running at right angles with the ridge, making our job much easier. This track, followed roughly north, led us to a delightful old moss-covered bridge across Bellbird Creek. A tree had fallen across the bridge but, on further inspection, the bridge on the off-side of the fallen

tree had collapsed, leaving the two slimy but solid, original supporting logs. The fallen tree provided a useful hand-rail for crossing the logs.

On the other side of the creek the track appeared to have been used more recently and was well defined. Trail bikes had apparently abandoned use of the track perhaps 3 or 4 years ago, possibly because of the collapsed bridge, and the earth had reverted to a deep carpet of well-rotted forest litter. From then on, the track is well-benched all the way and meanders through old fern gullies which fall away steeply from the track.

The map shows the track turning north-east and following a ridge to BT Divide Track. Although it was almost dark by the time we would have reached this point and we may have missed a turn, the obvious route was north along the contours. The track was still well-benched, much longer than the map route, and came out at the saddle just south of Davis Road. At this end, the scrub was thick and the track not obvious.

It was dark when we reached BT Divide Track, we knew not were. After groping around in the moonlight for a couple of hours, the sight of Adrian's yellow van was as comforting as I remember a certain green Gronow's van. At 9.15 p.m. three scratched, mud and blood covered bushwalkers greatly enhanced the profits of a certain pizza restaurant in Berwick.

Anyone wishing to use the track for a private walk would be best to start from the Silvertop Spur end, as the point at which the ridge track meets the benched track on the Silvertop Spur side of the creek is not clear.

I strongly recommend that the Club follows up our track clearing, leaving 200 or 300 metres uncleared at either end to discourage trail bikes. Numerous fallen trees on the track and the collapsed bridge should deter the more persistent riders. The track is too good as a walking track to abandon. Track clearers should bring a good supply of salt for leeches. Thanks, Nigel.

Pauline Williams

MT BUFFALO WEEKEND 2-3 MAY 1992

"No" said the ranger, "I would not recommend that you use Goldies Spur route to Mt Buffalo. The track is terribly overgrown and difficult to find. Someone was lost there recently.....had a terrible time". With those comforting words ringing in my ears we set out on a fine Saturday morning to climb Goldies Spur.

Mt Buffalo was an area that had eluded me ever since I became involved with the bushies. I somehow contrived to miss every opportunity to go there with the exception of one ski weekend. Yet there it was, huge and mysterious, visible on so many weekend walks. So here at last I was leading a walk to climb Buffalo, to meet up with the weekend base-campers at Lake Catani.

Starting at Buckland Crossing, in the Buckland valley, we were to tackle the mountain following the southern route taken by Baron Ferdinand von Meuller in 1853, reputedly the first European to climb the mountain. A transmission line and fire track now also follows the first few kilometres of his route. Following the track, we had glorious views of the plateau with Dicksons Falls cascading down, and by morning tea we were about to tackle the 'difficult bit' - Green Hill, the Rocks Saddle and up onto the plateau itself. Although there was no track to be found at first, as we climbed the spur to Green Hill it became obvious that the warnings were exaggerated. Apart from a little blackberry and raspberry the scrub was light and we were soon at the saddle. The fine weather had turned to mist and soon became rain. The Baron had done a fine job of marking his route with yellow plastic ties, and we found our way up the steep side of the plateau through the thick scrub without too much

difficulty. As we took our lunch on some convenient rocks, our solitude was disturbed by a bunch of noisy bushies. We were, unknowingly, a couple of metres away from our target track junction, and Jean's base camp party were on their way back from the Back Wall. They continued back to base camp to put on the billy, while we continued to the Back Wall where we had a view of the sheer rock wall falling away into space (but we had to use our imaginations as the mist obliterated most of the view).

Continuing our climb, now quite gentle, we passed the unusual rock formations in the Valley of the Gods, through the marsh, where Rosa went in up to her middle, and up to the road where our transport awaited. Two cars whisked us to Lake Catani (courtesy of Jean and Eleanor) where we were fortified with tea and a roaring fire at the base camp.

Sunday was an easy day where we explored the tracks around the Gorge area, but again the views eluded us in the thick mist. Mark Durré was able to show us a hidden glowworm cave in the Underground River which had been discovered by his grandfather. After inching in flat on my back I got into a vertical position in total darkness and stepped into cold water. I then screwed my neck through 180° to see... glowworms. Grandfather must have been agile. Coffee and carrot cake at the Chalet took my mind off my wet feet.

Climbing Party - Derrick Brown, Gina Hopkins, Rosa D'Angelo, Max Casley, Peter Chalkley, Rene.
Derrick Brown

SNOW !! MT STIRLING - CLEAR HILLS 16-17 MAY 1992

There we were, out for a good weekend pack-carry over Mt Stirling /Clear Hills area - or so I thought. Yes, I know that it is a cross-country ski area, but it was May and the leader hadn't said to bring our skis. Soon after passing Bluff Spur hut we were in the white stuff - just a little at first, then ankle-deep, then as we approached Mt Stirling summit, up to our knees! The sensible ones in leather boots and gaiters went first, making holes for the others to follow. Squeals and cries rent the air as cold snow met bare legs and inadequate runners. The summit was a trifle breezy so we stopped only briefly before descending to the Geelong Grammar School hut where we lunched outside in the weak sunshine. Two 4-wheel drives came up the Clear

Hills track as we descended further. We advised them of the conditions but they proceeded anyway. The exhaust fumes offended our nostrils for a surprisingly long time. Leaking oil ran down the track, mixing with the melting snow to pollute a waterway somewhere.

We arrived at "The Man from Snowy River" film-set hut to see the marvellous views over the mountain range that had featured in the film. The 'rustic' hut looked great from one side, and ugly from the other. The rough earth floor was further evidence that this was for filming only. An approaching convoy of twelve 4-wheel drives encouraged us to back-track to find ourselves a

quieter spot to camp. A site that we had passed earlier was fine, and close to water (albeit with cow-dung in it). After camp was established, we returned to the hut where to our relief we saw the convoy retreating back down the track with much churning of wheels on mud. We explored the area in peace and solitude in the late afternoon sun. We huddled around a roaring fire after tea as the temperature dropped rapidly. I slept well.

On Sunday we climbed back up to the Monument, then headed off into the bush on a compass bearing, descending sharply through some thick scrub. Strains of Banjo Patterson from Ed could be heard from time-to-time as we made our way

through the scrub. We dropped down a twenty foot vertical cliff to hit the Circuit Road in exactly the planned spot (so the leader said). After a short road walk, we again headed off on another bearing, this time for a steep climb. Lunch was taken in light rain which became heavier. We were soon back at King Saddle and the cars, and dry clothes. Tea and cakes were enjoyed on the way back at Ed's daughter's place to round off a most enjoyable weekend. Thanks, Gina.

Party - Gina Hopkins, Max Casley, Peter Chalkley, Barbara Weiss, Trish Elmore, Ed Little, Cameron McMillan, Derrick Brown, Chris Mentor.

Derrick Brown

NEW MEMBERS

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Henny Zimmerman

Ilse Koenig

Helen Amies

Gemmina Morgan

Helen Daily

Jordy Cuthbertson

Chris Mentor

Wendy Lawrence

CHANGES OF INFORMATION

David Laing

Debra Gomm

Jill Goodge

Michael Griffin

Jan Gross

Geoff Harrison

Geoff & Sandy Mattingley

Anna Casasayas

Graham & Marijke Mascas

Margaret Borden

Maureen Hurley

COMMITTEE NOTES - 1 JUNE 1992**CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

ANZ - V2 account
 Australia Post - Registered Publication, notice of termination of service
 STAV - membership renewal
 Dept of C & E - reply to President's letter re Murrindindi Scenic Reserve
 Graeme Laidlaw
 Queensland couple - request for information
 Keith Lloyd - resignation
 Raphael Byron - resignation & thanks

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Historic Buildings Mngmt Committee

BUSINESS ARISING:

From EGM - Committee to look at possibility of a new bus. John Kittson agreed to form committee
 The letter of resignation of Keith Lloyd: Alan Clarke is to act as treasurer.
 The position of Vice-President is now vacant and Jean is to approach candidates.

TREASURER'S REPORT AT 31 MAY 1992:

	\$	\$
MAY RECEIPTS:	9,824	
MAY PAYMENTS:		
Bills paid	3,722	
Bills to be paid	<u>2,793</u>	
BALANCE:		
Current Account	12,175	
Reserves Account	43,000	
Postage float	<u>500</u>	<u>55,675</u>

WALKS REPORT FOR APRIL:

Total	Day walkers	W/E walkers	Members	Visitors	Fees
207	165	42	167	40	\$1344

Two weekend walks were cancelled due to lack of support.
 Spring programme - ideas required.

EQUIPMENT:

New lightweight tent has been purchased.

DUTY ROSTER:

June	10	John & Alan M
June	17	Janet & Mary
June	24	Jean & Janet
July	1	Gina & Derrick
July	8	John & ???

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 13 July 1992 at 7.00pm